

Division of Criminal Justice

Staffed by more than 150 attorneys and more than 350 investigators, the Division of Criminal Justice works to protect the rights and safety of the public. The Division accomplishes its core mission in a variety of ways including the development of standards for the enforcement and prosecution of criminal laws, and the investigation and prosecution of unlawful activity including, but not limited to, public corruption, drug and weapons trafficking, street gang activity, bias crime, insurance fraud and environmental crime. Forty-one attorneys and 81 criminal investigators are assigned to combating insurance fraud, seven attorneys and 29 criminal investigators are dedicated to the Narcotics Bureau, 10 attorneys and 32 criminal investigators are assigned to the Organized Crime Bureau, and seven attorneys and five criminal investigators are assigned to the Casino Prosecutions Bureau.

Other sections to which attorneys and investigators are assigned include computer crime, special prosecutions, major financial crime, environmental crime, bias crime, labor prosecutions, law enforcement services, grand jury review, victim/witness coordination and prosecutor supervision and coordination.

The Division takes a lead role in promul-

gating policies related to all aspects of law enforcement. The Division also provides leadership to the 21 county prosecutors and other law enforcement agencies to ensure uniformity. For more information about the Division, visit its Web site www.njdcj.org.

Highlights

❖ Prosecution of Serial Killer Cullen —

The Division of Criminal Justice took a lead role in the multi-state investigation and plea negotiations that resulted in a global plea agreement with accused mass murderer Charles Cullen. A male nurse, Cullen has confessed to murdering 16 hospital patients in New Jersey — 13 in Somerset county and three in Warren county. At the time his plea deal was struck in 2004, Cullen had also admitted to killing a patient at a hospital in Northampton County, Pa. By virtue of the plea agreement, Cullen avoided the death penalty, but will spend the rest of his life in prison. He also agreed to provide full disclosure regarding murders and attempted murders he may have committed while employed as a student nurse or licensed nurse at 10 medical facilities located in five northern New Jersey counties and two eastern Pennsylvania counties between 1984 and 2003. The plea agreement also calls for Cullen to provide information that will assist health care facilities in improving security

and operating procedures — particularly involving patient access and medications.

❖ Public Corruption Cases —

The Division of Criminal Justice charged or convicted a total of 90 defendants for public-corruption-related offenses during the past three years, a milestone achievement. This significant number of cases does not include 23 Motor Vehicle Commission employees prosecuted for selling driving credentials and other document fraud. The prosecutions included:

❖ Assemblyman Pleads Guilty —

A 17-year veteran of the Legislature, Assemblyman Anthony Improveduto pleaded guilty in late 2004 to misappropriating campaign funds for personal use. As part of a plea agreement, Improveduto resigned his Assembly seat, was sentenced to five years probation, and was ordered to repay \$50,000 in illegally spent campaign funds.

❖ Law Enforcement Corruption —

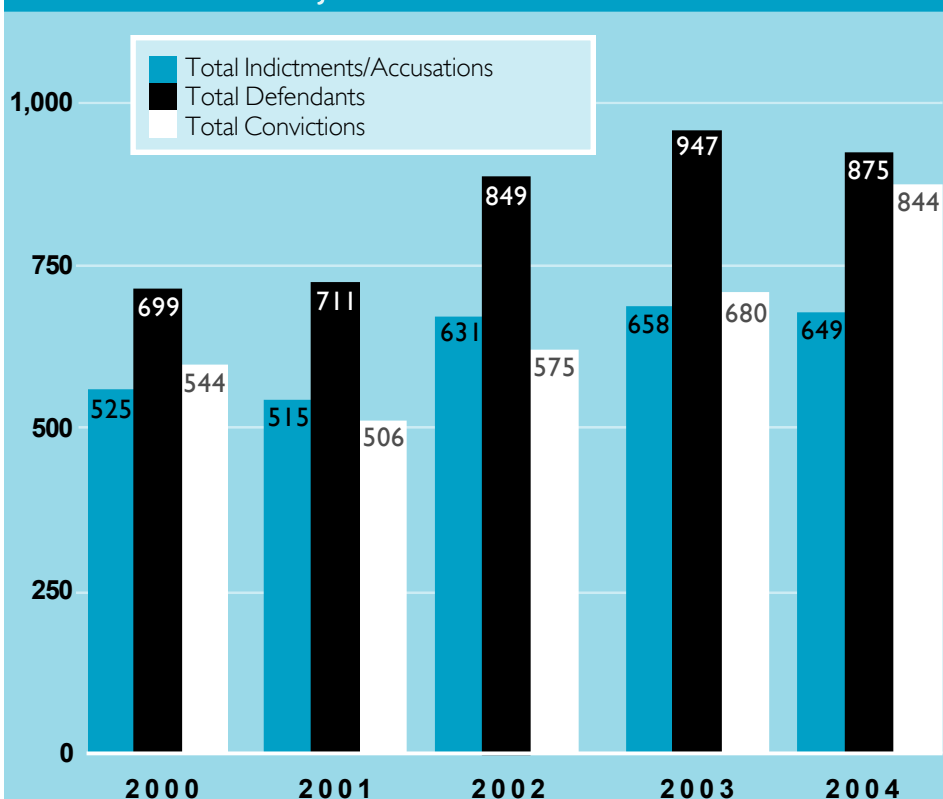
In Fall 2004, the Division obtained an indictment charging two Newark police officers with stealing cash and other items from purported drug dealers, and with “planting” drugs on individuals to cover their alleged actions. Also in 2004, the Division obtained an indictment charging a female Newark police officer with trafficking in illegal drugs, and a guilty plea from another Newark police officer to charges of “shaking down” alleged drug dealers by stealing their cash. In 2003, the Division obtained an indictment against a former Jersey City police officer for trying to use stolen credit cards to obtain merchandise.

❖ State v.

Daniel Wilson —

Former treasurer of the West Deptford Democratic Campaign Committee and former Director of the Department of Public Works in West Deptford, Wilson was sentenced to four years probation, barred from all future government employment, and ordered to pay a \$2,500 fine and court costs. Wilson was convicted, in a non-jury trial, of 11 counts of criminal activity related to an investigation focused on illegal campaign contributions by JCA Associates, a politically-active South Jersey engineering consulting firm.

Division of Criminal Justice Statistics





From left to right: John R. Hagerty, Director of Communications; Anne Kriegner, Chief; Keith Poujol, Chief Administrative Officer; Vaughn L. McKoy, Director; Greta Gooden Brown, Insurance Fraud Prosecutor; Ron Susswein, Deputy Director; Patricia Prezioso, AAG, Chief of Law Enforcement Services; E. Robbie Miller, DAG, Chief of Policy and Legislation.

❖ Combating Drug Gang Activity —

● Operation Golden Triangle —

Operation Golden Triangle led to the arrest of 17 people involved with the alleged sale of heroin and other narcotics. A collaborative effort of the Division, Trenton Police and the Mercer County Prosecutors Office, the operation focused on drug dealing in the City of Trenton, the surrounding Mercer county area and throughout Essex County. In addition to the 17 arrests, the operation resulted in seizure of several illegal weapons and 300 bricks of heroin.

● Operation Lord Stanley —

Ten suspected members of a “crack” cocaine and marijuana dealing network were arrested as a result of Operation Lord Stanley. As a result of cooperative effort by State, local and county law enforcement, authorities seized more than two pounds of marijuana, approximately \$200,000 cash and a variety of firearms and automobiles. The investigation targeted a narcotics trafficking network based at a public housing complex in Atlantic City.

● Champagne Posse/

Irvington Initiative —

Sixty-five alleged members of the so-called “Champagne Posse” were indicted on charges of selling marijuana, illegal weapons possession and other unlawful activities in and around Irvington. In addition, as part of the ongoing Irvington Initiative, members of the Essex County Anti-Crime Partnership kept the pressure on illegal gang activity by conducting sweeps in the

spring and fall of 2004 in which they painted over gang graffiti and arrested a number of alleged gang members and associates.

❖ Sexual Predator Sentenced —

A Burlington County man was sentenced to seven years incarceration after he pleaded guilty to trying to arrange a sexual encounter involving a 14-year-old via the Internet. Wayne Kell, 48, of Mount Holly, was sentenced to the New Jersey Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center at Avenel. He was arrested in August 2003 after arriving for a meeting in Mercer County with whom he believed would be two willing sexual partners – a woman and her 14-year-old daughter. In fact, Kell had requested the illegal sexual encounter through repeated on-line dealings with an undercover investigator for the Division’s Computer Analysis and Technology Unit. While using the Internet, Kell blatantly solicited an adult woman who would have sex with him and also allow him to have sex with her juvenile daughter.

❖ Insurance Fraud —

In 2004, the Division’s Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor obtained 177 insurance fraud convictions, obtained sentences of jail or state prison for fraud defendants totaling 206 years, and obtained court orders for more than \$16 million in defendant restitution payments. For additional details see page 16.

❖ Casino Prosecutions —

❖ Money Laundering Conspiracy —

On November 9, 2003, defendant Anastasios Samaras was indicted on money laundering and theft charges fol-

lowing an investigation involving the Division of Gaming Enforcement and the Casino Prosecutions Bureau within the Division of Criminal Justice. Samaras was charged with repeatedly passing fraudulent \$1 million Interbank of New York “official checks” at the Hilton Casino in Atlantic City over a five-month period, and utilizing the funds for gambling purposes. The scheme went undetected for several months because two Interbank employees allegedly verified the checks as valid despite knowing they were fraudulent. The two employees subsequently pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges and agreed to cooperate in the State’s investigation of Samaras. On the eve of his trial in June 2004, Samaras entered a guilty plea to a charge of theft by deception. He was sentenced to six years in State Prison.

❖ Environmental Crime —

In 2003-2004, the Division’s Environmental Crimes Bureau charged more than 50 individuals and corporations with criminal offenses related to illegal dumping, water pollution, etc. For more details see page 32.

